1: Allen H-4 (no date) 1932 RI1 Georgia RI1

the pellucid sunlight, early grew to prying intellect; lands of vivid life, of doings and undoings, of risings up and fallings down, of splendours and of shambles, of wisdom and of scattering.

Consider then the mountains of the Caucasus, "the father of the rivers of the East", stretching from sea to sea, from the Black Sea to the Caspian, over six hundred miles.

To the west, three days going now by steamer, to Constantinople and the straits into the Middle Sea; in the older days by sail, maybe from seven to a score of days to Byzantium and earlier to Troy.

To the east, across the Caspian, one day by steamer, two along the railways, to Bukhara and Samarkand; not so far even in the days when Chinghiz ruled at Karakorum, and the unquiet traveller went by sailing-boat and camel-back.

To the south-east by the valley of the Araks, to Tabriz-Tauris of the voyagers—and into the Iranian world.

To the south-west up the valley of the Kura, by Kars, an ancient site of settlement, and the Euphrates valley, to Syria and Egypt, and all the south and west.

So understand the Caucasus, a distant corner of the ancient world, but yet a true part of it, known to the old writers, familiar ground to them. It was the barrier of the ancient world, the end of known lands, the farthest part where travellers went. Here was "Phasis, where ships end their course". Beyond was the land of the Hyperboreans, the Gog and Magog of the Semites.

The mountains stretch north-west to south-east, a dim blue line, capped and flaked with the whiteness of the perpetual snow.

From their middle they throw out, as it were, a lower rib, which curves south-westward, until it is merged into the long high range of the Pontic Alps which bank the southern coast of the Black Sea. This rib is called the Surami (from the high pass which leads over from the western to the eastern plains which lie under Caucasus) or by the Georgians the Mountains of Likhi.

From the region of the Pontic Alps to the east and south are piled the ranges of the peripheral rim of the Armenian plateau. Behind them is the highland country of Armenia—great ranges running west to east and then curving to the north and south. They shelter long extensive river valleys and spread their flanks around wide upland basins—the beds of old lakes. Such is the country where the Kura takes its

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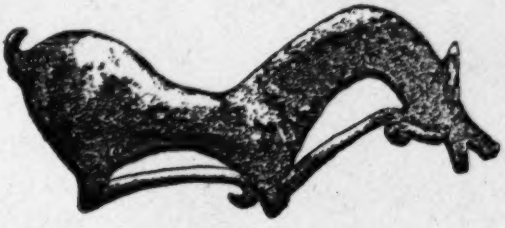
that come down from the Caucasus—the Liakhvi, the Ksani and the Aragvi, and lower in a great fork the two considerable rivers which run parallel with the Mtkvari, the Yori, remarkable for the number of pheasants that abound there, and the Alazani, the loveliest valley of the Caucasus.

This is the Caucasian land—between the walls of mountains, a ditch that opens either end on seas—a corridor from the west into the innermost parts of Asia, approachable with no great difficulty from either sea.

And from north to south over the mountains from the northern steppe, there is access through that narrow gorge of Daryal—*Dar-i-Alan*—" the gate of the Alans "; also by the changeful foreshore of the Caspian, along a narrow strip of sandy way under the eastern flanks of Caucasus—*Zghvis-Kari*, " the Sea-Gate " of the Georgians. By this way, mostly, the mounted nomads, Scythians, Alans, Huns, Khazars, were wont to ride through upon the civil countries; and so the vital point upon it where the mountains come down nearest to the sea was called by the Persians Derbend, and by the Arabs *Bab-al-Abwab*, " The Gate of Gates ", and to this day, the Muslims, recalling the Arab terror of the Khazar raids, still call the Caspian, a sea as shifting as the nomads, and washing to their steppe-land parts, *Bahr-ul-Khazar*—" The Khazar Sea ".

From the south and east access was easy, across the Araks fords and up the open valley of the Mtkvari. From the west, unless by sea, more difficult; for an invader must go through the mountains up the feeders of the Araks to the sources of the Mtkvari, and penetrate the long Borjomi defile, or follow down the rocky valleys of the Trialetian and Somkhetian mountains, that fall to the Mtkvari from the west.



ETHNOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DIVISION OF GEORGIA

By A. GUGUSHVILI

● 131 GEORGIA lies between the two systems of the Caucasian Mountains—that of the Great Caucasus in the north and that of the Little Caucasus in the south. On the west she borders upon the Black Sea, between the River Pso in the north and the village of Sarp in the south (south-west of Batum); on the east she is bounded by the River Alazani and its junction with the Yori. On the east is Azerbaijan and on the south are Armenia and Turkey.

Within these boundaries Georgia occupies an area of 72,661 square [161] *versts*, or 75,792 square kilometres, and she has a population of about 3,000,000.

The territory of Georgia in the present-day political sense does not coincide with the territory which can be called Georgia in the national sense, for a considerable portion of the Georgian territory lies outside her present-day frontiers, such as the Zak'at'ala district in the east, the southern part of the Bortchalo district in the south, and Artvin, Ardahan, Ardanutch, and Olti in the south-west. Apart from these latter four districts which the Bolsheviks ceded to Turkey by the Treaty of Kars (March, 1921), the whole of the middle basin of the Dchorokh, known as *Klarjet'-T'ort'um-Ispiri*, and *Lazistan* along the Black Sea coast, inhabited by the Laz, a Georgian tribe, have now for a considerable time been under Turkey.

101 The country which is inhabited at present by the Georgians, and which has been their homeland for the last twenty-five to thirty centuries, is called in Georgian *Sak'art'velo* (Sa-k'art'-v-el-o). The name *Sak'art'velo* (Georgia) and *K'art'veli* (a Georgian) is derived from the name of *K'art'li* (K'art'-l-i), a principal province of Georgia and its inhabitants, the K'art'ians or K'art'lians, who gave their name to the whole country just as Schwyz gave its name to the whole of Switzerland.

[133] The Suram range or *Likhis-mt'a* (Mountains of Likhi), which connects the system of the Great Caucasus in the north with the system of the Little Caucasus in the south, divides Georgia into two principal parts—Western and Eastern, or, using the Georgian terminology, into *Imier* "that side" and *Amier* "this side" (of the Suram or Likhi range); Western and Eastern Georgia were therefore called also *Likht'-imieri* and *Likht'-amieri* Georgia, and the two parts of the country *Likht' Imeret'i* and *Likht' Ameret'i* respectively.

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Western Georgia

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Western or *Likht'-imieri* Georgia comprises the following "countries" (ethnographic units) and traditional territorial divisions:

Ap'khazet'i (Ap'khaz-et'-i)—the country of the Ap'khaz-es or Abkhasians,[1] which under the present Bolshevik regime constitutes a Soviet Socialist Republic and is included in Georgia on a Treaty basis. Abkhasia occupies the north-eastern corner of the Black Sea littoral from the River Pso in the north-west to the Mountains of Khurum (a southern lateral range of the main Caucasus chain), in the north-east, and the River Engur in the south-east; she thus lies between the Black Sea and the western portion of the Great Caucasus from the peak Akhakhtcha to the peak Gvandra, which constitutes the *Abkhasian Alps*.

Ap'khazet'i comprised, according to the Georgian annals, the following "countries": *Ap'khazet'i* proper, north-west of the town of Tskhumi or Sukhum; *Apshilet'i* (A-psh-il-et'-i), south-east of Sukhum; and *Sharo* or *Sharoet'i*, an as yet unidentified part of Ap'khazet'i.[2]

The Abkhasians are divided into:—

Gagraa—Gagr-ians, the Abkhasians of the Gagra region.

Abzȣphua or *Abzȣpkwa*—Bzibians of the present Gudout (Gudaut) district, the Abkhasians proper.

Gumaa—Gum-ians, the Abkhasians of the Guma valley.

Ab'zhuaa or *Abzhuwaa*—Abzhu-ians, the Abkhasians of the district between the Rivers Kodor and Galizga, the *Apshilet'i* (A-psh-il-et'-i) and *Apsh-il-el-ni*, Apshil-ians of the Georgian annals.

Samurzaqanaa or *Murzaqaniuaa*—Murzaq-an-ians or Samurzaqan-ians, the Abkhasians of Samurzaqano (Samurzakan) between the rivers Galizga (Geo. Ghalidzga) and Engur.

Dsabalaa—Dsabal-ians, the Abkhasians of *Dsibelda* (Tsebelda and Tsebeldians of the Russians), the middle valley of the Kodor.

Dalaa—Dal-ians of the Dal defile or upper Dsibelda. [See S. Basaria, *Abkhazia* (in Russian), Sukhum, 1923, pp. 47–8.]

Svanet'i (Svan-et'i-i)—the country of the Svans-s, Svan-ians (Svanetia of the Russians), lying under the very shadow of Elbrus, the highest peak of the Great Caucasus. The boundaries of Svanet'i are: In the north the main Caucasus chain, which constitutes here the *Tataro-Svanetian Alps*; in the east the Lukhunistsveri or Letchkhum range; in the south the Zagier, Ziadistavi, Rokal

[1] The Abkhasians call themselves *Apsua* (Absua), which denotes "people of soul" and their country *Apsny* (Absno), denoting "the country of soul".

[2] See I. Javakhishvili, *A History of the Georgian Nation* (in Georgian), Tiflis, 1914, vol. ii, p. 315.

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(2,650 m.), Shui and Debash ridges; and in the west the north-eastern borders of Abkhasia.[1]

Samegrelo (Sa-m-egr-el-o) or Megrelia (M-egr-el-i-a)—the country of the Megr-s, Megr-ians, or rather Egr-s, Egr-ians, called to-day Megrelians (Mingrelia and Mingrelians of the Russians), which borders upon the Black Sea and lies between the River Engur on the north-west and the rivers Tskhenis-tsqali and Rion on the east and south respectively; in the north Megrelia borders upon Svanet'i.[2]

Guria (Gur-i-a)—the country of the Gur-ians, which borders on the Black Sea, between the Rion and Dcholok' rivers, and occupies the basins of the Supsa and Notanebi rivers.

Imeret'i (Imer-et'-i)—the country of the Imer-s, Imer-ians (Imeretia and Imeretians of the Russians), bounded on the north by the Caucasus chain, on the east by the Suram range, on the south by the Ghado range; in the west it borders upon Megrelia and Guria, and in the north-west upon Svanet'i.

Imeret'i comprises the following traditional territorial divisions:—

Letchkhumi, called formerly T'akueri,[3] west of Megrelia and south of Svanet'i, from which it is separated by the Letchkhum range.

Radcha, east of Letchkhumi, occupying the upper basin of the Rion, between the Nak'erala or Radcha range in the south and the Caucasus chain in the north.

Argvet'i or *Margvet'i*, south of Radcha, occupying the valleys of the Rivers Qvirila, Tchkherimela, Tcholaburi, and their tributaries, in the eastern part of Imeret'i.

Western Georgia, the ethnographical division of which we have just described, has in the course of her history been known under different names. In ancient times she was known to the early Greeks as *Kolkhida* (Colchis), celebrated in Greek mythology as the place

[1] The Svanetian range, which is the highest of the southern lateral ranges of the main Caucasus chain, divides Svanet'i into two main parts, namely—

Upper (*Zemo*) or Northern, Svanet'i, occupying the upper basin of the River Engur, and

Lower (*K'vemo*) or Southern, Svanet'i, occupying the upper basin of the River Tskhenis-tsqali.

Upper Svanet'i, in its turn, was divided into *Dadeshk'eliani's Svanet'i*, that is the western part of the country, as far as Edseri, ruled by the Princes *Dadeshk'eliani*, and *Free Svanet'i*—the eastern part, so-called because it had never been subjugated by any feudal lord, having been governed by a council of communities, constituting a defensive union in the manner of free Swiss communities. Similarly Lower Svanet'i was called *Dadiani's Svanet'i* because it had been held by the *Dadianis*, the ruling Princes of Megrelia.

[2] *Samegrelo* in ancient times was called *Egrisi* (Egr-is-i) or *Saegroy* (Sa-egr-o-y), also *Odishi*.

[3] T'akneri (Mod. Geo. T'akveri) appears to have been also the ancient name of Radcha. Professor Javakhishvili supposes that T'akveri was anciently a common name for both Letchkhumi and Radcha (op. cit., p. 314).

103 where the Golden Fleece was kept, and thus connected with the
[131] voyage of the Argonauts. Towards the end of the first half of the first century, Kolkhida represented a united kingdom bounded on the west by the Euxine or Black Sea from Pityus (Pitsunda—Bidchvint'a) and Dioscurias (Sukhum) to Trebizond; on the north by the Great Caucasus; on the east by Iberia (the fortresses Skanda and Sarapan or Shorapan formed the boundary line); and on the south-east by the Meskhian (Moschic) Mountains. Kolkhida thus embraced not only the whole of Western, but also a part of South-Western, Georgia, namely, the later Samtskhe, Adchara, and Dchanet'i or Lazistan.

162 Classical writers (Strabo, Arrian, Ptolemy, Procopius) give names of many tribes dwelling within these boundaries, the more important among whom were: *Sannoi* (Dchanians), *Moskhoi* (Meskhians, only a part), *Makrones-Manraloi* (Megrelians), *Suano-Kolkhoi* (Svano-Kolkhians), *Soanes* or *Suani* (Svanians), *Apsiloi* (Apshilians), *Abaskhoi* (Abkhasians), and *Sanigai* or *Sanikhes*. In Strabo's time the Soanes or Svanians appear to have held a much larger territory, stretching from above Dioscurias (Sukhum) eastward along the Great Caucasus chain, and southward beyond the River Khobi (Khopi) which, Pliny (first century A.D.) informs us, flowed through the Svanian territory. According to Ptolemy (second century A.D.), the Laz dwelt south-west of the Kolkhians on the Black Sea littoral, and above the Kolkhians the Manraloi and the inhabitants of the country of *Ekrektike*, which Professor Javakhishvili interprets to denote the Georgian Egrisi.[1]

103 Western Georgia continued to be called Kolkhida (or Colchis)
131 until about the middle of the third century A.D., when the country already appears to be called by the new name *Lazica*. The boundaries of Lazica, west, north, east, and south-east, were the same as those of Kolkhida; the south-western boundary, however, according to Procopius (sixth century A.D.), appears to have been the town and fortress of Petra, south-west of which, the land of the Laz, along the Black Sea coast (Dchanet'i) was under the direct Byzantine administration. According to Procopius the River Rion formed in his time the boundary between Europe and Asia, and most of the Lazian
[361] population dwelt on the European side of the river; on the southern or Asiatic side, the Laz, Procopius states, possessed no towns, villages, or fortresses except Petra, which circumstance was presumably the result of the devastations caused by the Perso-Byzantine Lazic wars.[1]
[164] Lazica was inhabited by the same tribes as Kolkhida, that is, according to Javakhishvili, by "three Georgian ethnic groups, the Lazo-Megrelians, the Ap'shilo-Abkhasians, and the Svanians".

103 Both the names Kolkhida and Lazica are to be comprehended in the broad and in the narrow sense. In the narrow sense Lazica, for

[1] See Javakhishvili, *History*, vol. i (1913), pp. 53-4-5.

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the terms Imeret'i and Mingrelia were identical; to this effect we have also a linguistic basis, but, nevertheless, *imer* is one of the local differentiated ancient forms of a general ethnic term, preserved as a survival by a definite and ethnographically differentiated region. The full, more ancient form of the term *imer* is **himer*, resp. **hiber*." [1]

Eastern Georgia

Eastern or *Likht'-amieri* Georgia comprises the following "countries" or ethnographic divisions.

Kakhet'i (Kakh-et'-i), the country of the Kakh-s, Kakh-ians (Kakhetia and Kakhetians of the Russians), which constitutes the extreme eastern part of Georgia, lies between the Mtkvari(Kur)-Aragvi rivers (on the west) and the eastern part of the main Caucasus chain (the *Deghestan* and *Samur Alps*), stretching in a south-easterly direction from the Pirik'it'eli chain [2] of the Great Caucasus Mountains in the north to the confluence of the Rivers Yori and Alazani.

Kakhet'i is divided into two parts by the Kakhetian range or *Tsiv-Gomboris-mt'a*. This range is a ramification of the Great Caucasus, and stretches south-east, curling like a sickle; outside the curve lies the western or Outer (*Garet'*) Kakhet'i, and inside it the eastern or Inner (*Shignit'*) Kakhet'i. The former occupies the basin of the River Yori (in ancient times called the "Little Alazani") and the latter that of the Alazani.

Inner Kakhet'i comprises:—

T'ushet'i (T'ush-et'-i)—the country of the T'ush-es (Tushetia and Tushins of the Russians), occupying the northern part of Inner Kakhet'i; its northern boundary is the Pirik'it'eli chain between the peaks Tebulos-mt'a (4507 m.) and Diklos-mt'a (4135 m.), north of the main Caucasus chain; a portion of the latter, between Mount Borbalo (3290 m.) and Mount Shavi-klde (3581 m.), stretches almost across the middle of the country. This portion of the Great Caucasus is known as the *Tushetian Alps*.

K'iziqi, under which name is known the district of Sighnagh (Signakh of the Russians), constitutes the southern part of Inner Kakhet'i, between the Yori and Alazani. It was also called Kambetchani or Kambetchoani.

Saingilo (Sa-ingil-o), north-east of K'iziqi, between the Alazani river and the Samur Alps, better known as the district of Zak'at'ala (Zakataly of the Russians).

[1] N. Marr, *Baptism*, etc., p. 168.

[2] So is called by the Georgians the chain running parallel to the main Caucasus chain (the watershed). It stretches north of the latter, at a distance of 10 to 30 klm., from the Elbrus group in the west to the summit Shakh-dagh in the east. It is composed chiefly of granite and gneiss and forms the main tectonic axis of the whole Great Caucasus.

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Outer Kakhet'i includes :—

Khevsuret'i (Khev-sur-et'i)—the country of the Khevsur-s, occupying the northernmost part of Outer Karkhet'i, from the Mountains of Udzilauri in the south to the Pirik'it'eli chain north of the main Caucasus chain. A portion of the latter, from the summit Shino-tau (3928 m.) to Mount Borbalo, stretches in a south-easterly direction across the country. Khevsuret'i occupies the defile of the Khevsur Aragvi which flows southward, joining the P'shav Aragvi near Ortsqali under the Udzilauri Mountains, and the defiles of the K'istani or Labais-tsqali, Khakhobis-tsqali and Andakis-tsqali, which flow northwards, and the confluence of which forms the River Argun, the principal river of the Tchetchens in North Caucasia.

Pshavet'i (Pshav-et'-i)—the country of the P'shav-s, south of Khevsuret'i, occupying the defiles of the P'shav Aragvi, which rises in Mount Borbalo.

Besides T'ush-P'shav-Khevsuret'i, the Aragvi valleys and generally the northern parts of Kakhet'i and K'art'li comprised many ethnic " countries " of the Georgian Mountaineers, each with its own name and boundaries, some of which still exist.

Enumerated from south to north these are [1] :—

In the mountains called at present collectively the K'art'lian range [2] and on the upper course of the River Yori :

Erdso, in the Mountains of Erdso, north of the confluence of the Erdsos-tsqali or Adzet'i, a western tributary of the Yori ;

Dsobeni, north-west of Erdso, in the Mountains of Dsobona-mt'a ;

T'ianet'i, north of Erdso, occupying the upper valley of the Yori ;

P'khoet'i, north of T'ianet'i, covering the present day P'shavet'i and Khevsuret'i. Prince Vakhust, a Georgian geographer and historian of the eighteenth century, states that the P'shavo-Khevsurians were called formerly *P'kho(v)elni*, P'khovians.

In the mountains forming the watershed between the rivers K'san and Aragvi :

Tskhavati, north of the confluence of the Alevi, an eastern tributary of the K'san ;

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[1] See Javakhishvili, *History*, ii (1914), p. 302.

[2] The range called to-day the K'art'lian or *Kartalinski Khrebet* in Russian (see A. F. Lyayster and G. F. Tchursin, *Geografya Kavkaza*, Tiflis, 1924, p. 23), is one of the southern lateral ranges of the main Caucasus chain, constituting the watershed between the P'shav Aragvi and the Mtkvari(Kur) on the one hand and the Yori on the other, and merges in the south with the Yori plateau. The *Kukhet'is-mt'a* and *Gorejis-mt'a* of the Georgian sources constituted the southern part of this K'art'lian range.

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Dchartalet'i, east of Tskhavati, in the Dchartali and T'khnoli Mountains;

Tskhrazma, north of Tskhavati, in the gorge of the River Tskhrazmula, also an eastern tributary of the K'san.

In the upper gorges of the Aragvi rivers[1]:

Gudamaqari (Gudamakar), occupying the valley of the Black Aragvi which is called also the Gudamaqari Aragvi;

Mt'iulet'i, the country of the Mt'i-ul-s, west of Gudamaqari, occupying the upper gorge of the White Aragvi which is called also the Mt'iulian Aragvi;

Khada, north-west of Mt'iulet'i and north of Gudamaqari;

Khevi, the country of the Mo-khev-e-ni, above Khada, at the beginning of the Terek valley;

Dsanaret'i (Dsan-ar-et'i or Dsanar-et'-i), the country of the Dsanar-s, possibly the neighbourhood, according to Javakhishvili, of *Dsilkanis-kari*—the "Gate of Dsilkani"—and *Gza Dsilkanisay*—the "Road of Dsilkani"—under which name was known *Gza Darielisay* or *Darialanisay*—the Road of Dariel (Darial) or Darialan (Dar-i-Alan).

In ancient times Kakhet'i was divided into three parts, namely:—

Kakhet'i proper, "the country between the Caucasus and the Kakhetian range, from the Aragvi to Tqetba" (Gulguli above the town of T'elavi).

Kukhet'i (Kukh-et'-i),—the country south of Kakhet'i, "from the Aragvi to the head of the Mountains of Kakhet'i, between the Alazani and the Mtkvari," bounded on the south by the Mountains of Gareja or Garesja.[2]

Heret'i (Her-et'-i), the country south and south-east of Kukhet'-Kakhet'i, between the Mtkvari and the Caucasus (the Daghestan the Samur Alps), extending south-eastward to the Egri- or Airi-tchai-Kish rivers, called Gishis-tsqali in the Georgian sources, and the

[1] The River Aragvi rises under the name *T'et'r* (White) Aragvi in the main Caucasus chain, on Mount *Qeli* (Keli). At Pasanauri it is joined from the north by a tributary called *Shav* (Black) Argavi; further south, at Zhinvani, near Ananur, it receives from the north-east a tributary known as P'shav Aragvi, the middle and upper gorges of which are inhabited by the P'shavs. The P'shav Aragvi in its turn receives from the north a tributary called Khevsurian Aragvi. Below Zhinvani the river, which falls into the Mtkvari at Mtskhet'a, is called simply Aragvi. The name Aragvi was given by the Georgians also to the Terek which rises on Mounts Siveraut, Zilga-khokh, and Gimarai-khokh of the main Caucasus chain, and flows northward through the Darial Pass. In distinction from the White Aragvi, it was called *Aragvi Oset'isay*, i.e. Ossetian Aragvi. Georgians called the latter river also *Lomekhi* or *T'ergi*.

[2] "Kakhet'i is T'ianet'i above the Khevi (valley) of T'urdo as far as Khevsuret'i; Kukhet'i is Samgori above Nino-Dsminda and higher up, above Samgori to the Mountain of Erdso and to the Aragvi" [see N. Marr, *Histoire de la Géorgie*, 1re *Partie*, *Histoire ancienne*, *jusqu'en* 1469 *de J.C.* (in Georgian), Petrograd, 1923, p. 20, n. 2.]

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101 junction of the Yori-Alazani.[1] Heret'i [2] thus covered the "countries"
131 of K'iziqi and Saingilo, constituting at present the south-eastern part
103 of Inner Kakhet'i, and in addition *veli Qaraiisa*—the Field of Qaraia,
162 or the Steppe of Karayaz of the Russians, between the Mtkvari and the Yori.

According to Professor Javakhishvili [3] all the three names—Kakhet'i, Kukhet'i or Kokhet'i, and Heret'i—implied different conceptions at different times, according as to whence came the dynasty of the K'orepiskoposi [4] of the then Kakhet'i.

K'art'li (K'art'-l-i), the country of the K'art-s or K'art'-l-s, K'art'-(l)-ians (Kartalinia and Kartalinians of the Russians), which was divided into three main parts, namely :—

Inner (*Shina*) *K'art'li* (Northern K'art'li), between Imeret'i and Northern Kakhet'i, or the Suram range in the west and the Aragvi river and Tiflis in the east, extending from the T'rialet'ian or Arjevan range northwards to the Pirik'it'eli chain of the Great Caucasus.

Lower (*K'vemo*) *K'art'li* (Southern K'art'li), south of Inner K'art'li, between the southern Kakhet'i, or the Mtkvari on the east and the Javakhetian range or *Mokrye Gory* ("Wet Mountains") on the west, bounded on the south by the Erevnis-mt'a (Pambak) range.

Upper (*Zemo*) *K'art'li* (South-Western K'art'li), between the Lower K'art'li (east) and the Black Sea (west), stretching from the Adchara-Ghado range in the north to the Mountains of Ispir and Deveh Boyun in the south. Viewed as part of Georgia as a whole, Upper K'art'li is often called Southern Georgia. Upper K'art'li or Southern Georgia thus occupies the upper basin of the Mtkvari, the middle basin of the Dchorokh, the two basins being divided by the Arsian-Soganlugh ranges, their watersheds, and the Black Sea littoral, divided from the Dchorokh valley by the Dchanet'i or Pontic range.

Each of the main parts of K'art'li comprised and still comprises the following ethnographic and traditional territorial divisions :—

Inner K'art'li :—

Oset'i (Os-et'-i)—the country of the Os-es or Ossets (Osetia and Osetins of the Russians), which under the present Bolshevik regime constitutes an autonomous Soviet Socialist province within Georgia, occupies the northern part of K'art'li, above the Gori plain, between Radcha and the River K'san. By origin the Ossets are not Georgians, but by the fact of their settlement in Georgia they have, for centuries,

[1] Javakhishvili, *Frontiers of Georgia* (in Georgian), Tiflis, 1919, p. 41.

[2] "According to Vakhusht the name Kukhet'i went out of use during the period of Arab hegemony, when a local dynasty became established in Kakhet'i; and the name Heret'i was abandoned in 1466, when the Kingdom of Kakhet'i was set up." (See W. E. D. Allen, *A History of the Georgian People*, London, 1932, pp. 62–3.)

[3] *History*, v... ii, p. 259.

[4] Or K'orikoz, the title of the Ruling Princes of Kakhet'i, in the early Middle Ages.

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been very closely associated both historically and culturally with them. They call themselves *Iron*, and occupy the very centre of the Great Caucasus which divides their country into two parts, the northern and southern, the latter of which lies within Georgia. This part of K'art'li, before the Ossets came from over the Caucasus chain, was inhabited by the Georgian Mountaineers called Dsanars (Dsan-ar).

Lower K'art'li :—

Gardabani, the eastern part of Lower K'art'li, along the lower valleys of the rivers K'tsia (Khram), and Berduji (Bortchalo).[1]

Gatchiani, west of Gardabani, the central part of Lower K'art'li, the middle valley of the K'tsia (Khram) and the Mashaveri valley, " from the River Skoret'i (the modern Vere or Vera) to the mountain which is Tashiri and Abotsi," [2] east of the Tchaldir Lake.

T'rialet'i, west of Gatchiani, the upper valley of the K'tsia (Khram), from the Lake P'aravan to the Borjom defile, called anciently *Tasis* or *Tashis Kari*.

In the Middle Ages the name Gardabani (Gardbani) or Khunani applied to the whole country between the Mtkvari in the north and the Pambak range in the south, including thus part of Inner K'art'li.

The southern part of Gardbani was known to the classical writers (Strabo, etc.) as *Gogarene*. The latter, the Georgian equivalent of which is *Gugaret'i*, covered, according to Professor Javakhishvili, the present day " Dchodchkani-Bolnis-Dmanisi valleys, Tashir, Abots (Kaikul), and the southern part of T'rialet'i. . . . The trace of the former name of this province is preserved in the present-day geographical name of Gujaret'i [Adontz, *Armenia*, p. 425, note]. . . . In Georgian geographical terminology this Gogarene-Gugaret'i was often called *K'vemo K'art'li*." [3]

In the tenth century there appeared yet another name for this province, namely *Somkhit'i*, by which name, however, was known only the Bolnis-Dmanis valley and the Lore plain.[4]

Upper K'art'li :—

The countries of the south-eastern littoral of the Black Sea :—

Adchara (Adjaristan of the Turks and the Russians), which under

[1] Gardabani is called (the country) below Dchapala, Nakhidur, and Tagnaget'a as far as the Mtkvari " (Marr, op. cit., p. 19, n. 6). Dchapala is a little west of Shulaveri. Gardabani or Gardbani was also called Khunani; the country derived its two names from those of its two chief towns, Gardbani and Khunani. Earlier, however, the town of Khunani was called Mtkvris-Tsikhe (" the Mtkvari's Castle or Fortress ") the ruined remains of which are known to-day as Qizqala (Kyzkala of the Russian maps) at the junction of the K'tsia and the Mtkvari.

[2] Gatchiani derived its name from that of its chief town, which was called also *Sanadiro K'alak'i* " the Hunting Town ". The sites of the towns Gatchiani and Gardabani remain as yet unidentified.

[3] Javakhishvili, *Frontiers*, p. 16. Since the introduction of the Russian administrative division most of K'vemo K'art'li has been known as the *Bortchalo* district.

[4] Ibid., p. 21.

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the present Bolshevik regime constitutes an autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic within Georgia, borders on the Black Sea between the River Tcholok' and the village Sarp, south of Batum, where begins the present-day frontier line between Georgia and Turkey. Adchara is bounded on the north by the Adchara range; on the east by the Arsian range, where it borders upon Samtskhe; on the south by the Shavshet'i range, and on the south-west by the Dchorokh river.

K'obulet'i (K'ob-ul-et'-i), at present included within the autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Adchara (Adjaristan), occupied almost the whole Black Sea littoral of that country. Formerly, however, K'obulet'i formed part of Guria; Adchara proper constitutes the country between the Adchara and Shevshet'i ranges, or the basin of the river Adcharis-tsqali.

Livana, the country south of K'obulet'i, between the Black Sea coast and the lower basin of the Dchorokh as far as the town of Artvin.

Dchanet'i (Dchan-et'-i)—the country of the Dchan-s, Dchan-ians (Tchanians, Chanians of the Russians), better known as Lazistan—the country of the Laz, a narrow strip of land south of Livana, along the Black Sea coast, stretching towards Trebizond, and bounded on the east and south-east by the Dchanet'i or Pontic range, which divides it from Klarjet'i.

The countries of the Dchorokh basin:—

Shavshet'i, the country south of Adchara and east of Livana, bounded on the east by the Arsian range and on the south by the Shavshet'is-tsqali or Imerkhevi.

Klarjet'i, south of Shavshet'i, bounded on the east by the Arsian range and on the south by the Khekert'-dagh.[1] In the west Klarjet'i extended, according to medieval Georgian historians, L. Mroveli and Juansher, to the Black Sea; the present-day boundary, however, is the Dchanet'ian or Pontic range, where it borders upon Dchanet'i.

Tao, south of Klarjet'i, occupying the Bana-Olt'isi basin. The boundaries of Tao are not indicated in any of the early Georgian documents, but from the study of the scattered references contained in these documents Professor Javakhishvili [2] has come to the conclusion that within Tao the fortress of Panaskerti was near the north-eastern boundary and the village of Zedkareki, the present-day Zadgerekhi, near the south-eastern; Olt'isni (Olty of the Russian maps) was near the south-western and the fortress of Tukharisi [3] near the north-western, boundaries; and Ishkhani near the western boundary.

[1] Javakhishvili, op. cit., p. 328.
[2] Ibid., pp. 331–3.
[3] T'ukharisi was on the Dchorokh, on the boundary line between Tao and Klarjet'i for, according to an Armenian anonymous Geography, quoted by Javakhishvili, "the Dchorokh enters Klarjet'i near the fortress of T'ukharisi."

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Georgian sources mention the following divisions of Tao: Lower (*K'vemo*) Tao and *Imier* Tao, that is Tao *on that side* of the Bana-Olt'isi River. There must have been also, as Javakhishvili states, Upper (*Zemo*) Tao and *Amier* (" this side ") Tao. At the end of the tenth century *Imier* Tao was held by David the Great Kuropalat, a local Bagratid dynast (see pp. 120, 122), while *Amier* Tao constituted the paternal estate of King Bagrat III of Georgia (978–1014). After the death of David the Great Kuropalat († 1001), who died without an issue, *Imier* Tao was conquered by the Byzantine Emperor Basil (see Avalishvili, *La succession du Curopalate David d'Iberie, dynaste de Tao*, in *Byzantion*, Brussels, 1933, vol. viii; also Javakhishvili, op. cit., p. 332).

Basiani, south of Tao, the Plain of Pasin of the Turks.

Ispiri, the basin of the River Ispiris-tsqali, an eastern tributary of the Dchorokh; hence called also *Ispiris-kheoba*—the valley of Ispir.

T'ort'omi, the basin of the River *T'ort'omis-Mdinare*, a tributary of the Olt'isis-tsqali (Olti river), hence called also *T'ort'omis-kheoba* the Valley of T'ort'omi; it extended southward to the defile called *Sak'art'velos Qeli* by the Georgians and *Gurdji Boghaz*, " the Throat of Georgia," by the Turks, which lies north of Erzerum.

The " countries " of the Mtkvari basin :—

Samtskhe (Sa-mtskh-e), the country of the Mtskh-ians or Meskh-lans, in the north-east of Upper K'art'li, between the Arsian range on the west and the Tashis Kari (the Borjom defile) and the Lake Tbisquri (Tabistskhuri) in the east; on the south it was bounded by the Erushet'is-mt'a or Ulgar range and a line from above Khert'visi, at the junction of the Akhaltsikhis-tsqali (the P'otskhov river) with the Mtkvari, to the Lake Tbisquri.

Javakhet'i, the country south of Samtskhe and T'rialet'i, between the Arsian range on the west and the Javakhetian range (*Mokrye Gory*) on the east, extending to the Lakes Abotsi (Madatapa), Kardsakhi (Khozapin), and a line just above the town of Nak'alak'evi in the south.[1]

Artani (Artahani, Artaani; Ardagan of the Turks and the Russians), south of Javakhet'i, between the Arsian range (west) and the Lake Tchaldir (east).[2]

Kola, south of Artani and east of Tao, in which country, in the *Kolays Khevi*—the valley of Kola—is the source of the Mtkvari or the Kura of the Russians (in the Mountains of Kola—*Kolis-mt'a*—the present-day *Kula*, the Gel of the Russian maps).[1]

[1] Javakhishvili, *History*, vol. ii (1914), pp. 319, 322, 325.

[2] Javakhet'i and Artani as demarcated above include the country of *Erushet'i*, which constitutes the western part of the former and the northern part of the latter, lying thus between Samtskhe (north) and Artani (south).

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101 162 103 131 *Abotsi*, called formerly *Palaktsio* and later *Qaiquli* (*Kaikul* of the Russian maps), the land south of Javakhet'i, between Artan-Kola (west) and Tashiri (east), divided from the latter by the mountains of Karakhatch or Qaraghaj (formerly called Irjan); on the south it was bounded by Mount Agh (Akh)-Baba.[1]

174 103 Upper K'art'li was, and is still, called **Meskhet'i** (Meskh-et'-i), which indicates that it constituted the country of the Meskh-s, Meskh-ians. The Meskhians were one of the first Georgian tribes to enter Transcaucasia and settle in what later became known as Georgia. There are evidences which enable us to deduce that they had spread earlier into Western Georgia and northward, and later into Eastern Georgia,[2] where they seem to have organized their political life with a centre at Mtskhet'a, the ancient capital of Georgia (from fourth century B.C. to fifth century A.D.).

"As the ancient metropolis of the Georgian Kingdom was called Mtskhet'a," states Professor Javakhishvili,[3] "one is led to the conclusion that when the Georgian tribes were settling in Georgia the Meskhian tribe must have possessed the greatest political importance, for the name of the ancient capital of Georgia, *Mtskhet'i* or *Mtskhet'a*, denotes Meskhet'i or 'the settlement of the Meskhians'; a similar form, *Mtskhe*, of the name of the Meskhians is preserved in the name of the country where later dwelt an inconsiderable part of the Meskhians, namely, in Samtskhe (Sa-mtskh-e); in this word as in the word Mtskhet'a, the *mtskhe* denotes Meskhians."

103 Of their domination in Eastern Georgia we are reminded to-day not only by the name of Mtskhet'a, but also by that of a whole province called Somkhit'i, part of Lower K'art'li, which, according to the late Professor N. Marr, represents a compound ethnic term composed of the names of two ethnic groups, the Son-s or Svanians and Meskh-s, Meskhians, denoting thus the country of the Svano-Meskhians.[4]

The name Meskhet'i in this sense implied a wider conception and included not only what later became known as Upper K'art'li, but also Inner K'art'li. Meskhet'i implies a wide conception even in the sense of Upper K'art'li; actually Meskhet'i proper, in the narrow, ethnographic sense, was only the upper valley of the Mtkvari from the Tasis

[1] Situated between Upper K'art'li or Meskhet'i and Lower K'art'li, Abotsi formed part sometimes of Meskhet'i and sometimes, particularly during the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries, of Lower K'art'li (Javakhishvili, *Frontiers of Georgia*, pp. 35–6).

[2] Meskhians were preceded in Eastern Georgia by other Georgian tribes, such as Kasko-Kolkhians whence the names Kakhet'i, Kukhet'i, etc. An article dealing with the question of the settlement of the Georgian tribes in Transcaucasia will be published in a future number of *Georgica*.

[3] *History*, vol. I, (1913), p. 89.

[4] Son-meskh, resp. Shon-meskh → so-mehkh → so-mekh → = → so-mkh → so-mkh-et'-i. N. Marr, *Astronomical and ethnic meanings of two tribal names of the Armenians* (in Russian), in *Bulletin* ("*Zapishi*") *of the Eastern Branch of the Russian Archæological Society*, St. Pb., 1921, p. 252.